

## HOUSE APPROVES CRITICAL FUNDING FOR TRIBAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE AND WELLNESS PRIORITIES

**December 10, 2009-Washington, DC**-Today, the House of Representatives passed a consolidated or “omnibus” appropriations bill that includes funding requested by Rep. Herseth Sandlin for critical priorities across Indian Country. The funding package, which passed with Rep. Herseth Sandlin’s support, combined six appropriations bills that Congress must pass to fund government operations and agencies for Fiscal Year 2010 including Transportation-HUD; Labor-HHS-Education; Commerce-Justice-Science; Military Construction-Veterans Affairs; Financial Services; and State-Foreign Operations.

"Funding for these priorities is particularly important as communities in Indian Country seek to improve everything from infrastructure to law enforcement," Rep. Herseth Sandlin. "I'm proud to lend my name to these important projects and I'm hopeful the President will soon sign them into law."

***Funding for Indian Country requested by Rep. Herseth Sandlin included in the final package:***

- \$280,000 Wakpa Sica Reconciliation Place construction

- Funding will be used to continue construction on the Cultural Interpretive Center. Once completed, Wakpa will be an important element in the economic recovery and development of South Dakota's Tribes. One of Wakpa's two major goals is to assist Tribal courts in stabilizing the judicial systems of the Reservations. With a reliable judicial system, the Tribes will be in a stronger position to attract capital and investments from off the Reservation. The other goal of Wakpa is to serve as a Cultural Interpretive Center for the Great Sioux Nation cultivating a strong bond between the individual Tribes and with the non-Tribal community.

- \$60,000, Native Women's Health Care Ultrasound Machine Replacement

- Native Women's Health Care, located in Rapid City, South Dakota, seeks funding to replace its ultrasound machine. NWHC provides health care services to approximately 600 women per month and over 7,500 women per year. It operates pursuant to the Indian Self-Determination Act, and three sovereign South Dakota tribes are stakeholders: the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, and the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.

The current ultrasound machine is old and breaks down.

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***Funding requested by Rep. Herseth Sandlin included in the final package organized by tribe:***

Crow Creek Sioux Tribe

- \$500,000, Asphalt Paving on road to Crow Creek Tribal Schools Stephan Campus

- A long awaited and much needed new gym has been built on ground of Crow Creek Tribal Schools Stephan Campus. Funding is needed for asphalt paving on the road to the new gym and parking area. Stephan is located in a very rural area with no paved roads and little other infrastructure. The current gym is in a field where it gets muddy when it rains and snow melts. Asphalt paving would add to the safety, usefulness, and aesthetics of the gymnasium.

### Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe

- \$1 million, Cheyenne River Sioux Indian Justice System
- The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation spans over 1.4 million acres and is home to over 8,000 enrolled members. This project would provide for additional tribal law enforcement officers, equipment, training, and tribal court support. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because, without supplemental operational funding, the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe struggles to maintain officer and court personnel levels high enough to serve their reservation.
- \$100,000, Tribal Youth Development
- The funds will be used for alcohol and drug awareness, education and youth suicide prevention for youths ages 7 to 18, numbering about 4,000.

### Lower Brule Sioux Tribe

- \$194,800, Lower Brule Tribal Day Care
- Funding is needed to purchase new playground equipment and upgrade kitchen and learning areas of current daycare to improve safety for children.\$340,900 Upgrades to community center

- \$340,900 Lower Brule Community Center Upgrades
  - The Community Center was built in 2001, located in the heart of the community and serves as a vital part of many lives. The Center is where the swimming pool, diabetes prevention offices, wellness center, and gym are located. It has become a place where families and churches host events, reunions, wake and funeral services, and community feeds. Funds would be used to replace the roof, repair the pump house and pool, repave the parking lot, and for other minor repairs.
- \$300,000, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Boys & Girls Club
  - Lower Brule Boys & Girls Club would utilize FY10 funds for drug & alcohol prevention, gang prevention, and community awareness activities. Currently, the tribe serves a total of 215 youth from the ages of 6 through 18 years of age. Increased funding would enable the tribe to reach more children and to better serve its current club members. By funding prevention activities for youth, this project is a good use of taxpayer dollars because it reduces crime and delinquency.

### Oglala Sioux Tribe

- \$1.2 million, Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety
  - The Oglala Sioux Tribe Department of Public Safety is located on the Pine Ridge reservation in southwestern South Dakota and is home to over 38,000 tribal members. FY10 funding would enable the Oglala Sioux Tribe to maintain the current number of law enforcement officers by supporting officer salaries, training, equipment, and related operations. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will increase safety and security of community members on the reservation.

### Rosebud Sioux Tribe

- \$150,000, Crack sealing and chip seal on BIA #7, Rosebud to Highway 18 Junction
  
  - BIA Route #7 from Rosebud to US Highway 18 consists of 9 miles of paved road that is showing wear of cracks, chips of concrete, potholes. Crack Sealing and Chip Seal will be preventive measures taken to ensure longevity of existing road. The road serves multiple vital roles for communities, including the local school bus route, transit for employees that are employed in the surrounding areas, and is one of the routes that the tribal membership uses to travel to other communities surrounding the capital of the reservation.
  
  - \$300,000, Rosebud Sioux Tribe Justice System
  
  - This project would provide for law enforcement officers, equipment, training, and tribal court support to address Rosebud's urgent law enforcement and tribal court system needs. The Rosebud Police Department receives approximately 22,000 calls for emergency services each year, and the Police Department is underfunded and understaffed. This lack of officers impacts the Tribe's ability to serve the community and ensure public safety for the over 21,000 tribal members that reside on the reservation, and thus, taxpayer dollars would be well-spent to supplement their current resources.
  
  - \$600,000, Rosebud Ambulance Building
  
  - The funds will be used for construction of a new ambulance facility. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe Ambulance Service is a 24/7 emergency medical service. The RST Ambulance Service area includes Todd, Tripp, Jackson, Bennett, and Mellette counties in South Dakota, averaging more than 5,000 call responses each year.
- The current building is in dire need of repairs and has not had any major renovation since it was built in 1990.
- \$500,000, Wiconi Wakan Healing Center

- The funds will be used to implement the Tribal Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Project Plan targeting Rosebud Sioux children and youth (ages 10-24) on the Rosebud Sioux Reservation.

### Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe

- \$110,000, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate Transition Alliance
- The Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate would use FY10 funding to develop policies and procedures, materials, handbooks, and to train tribal detention officers as they work to establish their Community Justice and Rehabilitation Center ( *Oyate Woazani Yuteca Tipi*). The Community Justice and Rehabilitation Center's mission is to provide a comprehensive program to help offenders reach a "state of balance" prior to their release by co-locating and integrating behavioral health services with the detention facility. The facility is designed to build on the tribe's existing restorative justice, drug court, and three State Accredited treatment programs, and would expand these current programs into a full continuum of services consistent with correction and behavioral health "best practices." When complete, the center will serve both adult and juvenile offenders. This project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will develop personnel and practices that would maximize the success of the Community Justice and Rehabilitation Center.

### Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

- \$588,950, Community Streets Project
- Funding will be for street paving project and safety enhancements on Community Streets project in Bullhead, SD. Community Street Project compliments the construction of new homes by the Tribe's Housing Authority in Tribal districts. Roadwork will entail earthwork, sub-grade improvements, sub-base, new pavement surface, curbs and gutters, storm sewer, traffic signs, sidewalks, street lighting, and safety items needed in new housing clusters. Road infrastructure required to ensure safe, year-round access by residents to new homes which cannot be met with Indian Reservation Roads Program, HUD, and Tribal funds alone.

- \$350,000, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Child Protection Services
  
- The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation straddles the North Dakota and South Dakota border, and over 10,000 members live on the reservation. The Standing Rock Child Protection Services provides foster care and protective services to the Native residents of the reservation. In FY08, the program served 230 children in foster care per month and 400 “Investigation of Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect” were completed. There are four case managers and two social workers, and the case load for these workers is about 25-30 cases each. The national average caseload for social workers/case managers is 15 cases. FY10 funding would enable the tribe to hire 8 additional positions and therefore increase the quality and quantity of services provided. This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will enable Standing Rock to serve more children in need throughout its North Dakota and South Dakota communities.
  
- \$400,000, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Justice System
  
- The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe reservation straddles the North Dakota and South Dakota border, and over 10,000 members live on the reservation. FY10 funding for the justice system would supplement the tribe’s violent crime prevention initiative, tribal court improvements, and related justice activities.

### Yankton Sioux Tribe (and Surrounding Area)

- \$25,000, Yankton Sioux Tribe Justice System
  
- The Yankton Sioux Tribe located in southeastern South Dakota is home to approximately 3,500 tribal members. FY10 funding will be used for the Victim Advocate Program which includes violence prevention activities, tribal youth programs, and community healing programs after a violent crime has occurred.
  
- \$100,000, Charles Mix County 911 System Upgrades

• Charles Mix County is located in southeastern South Dakota, and the county population is approximately 9,400 residents, including the Yankton Sioux Indian Reservation. FY10 funds would provide new technology and expand the dispatch center to properly house this equipment. This equipment will include computer-aided dispatching programs and new mapping technology. By increasing the capability of emergency services in Charles Mix County, this project would be a good use of taxpayer dollars.

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